

## Resolution 024

### A Resolution to Revise the University's Consent Policy

Sponsored by: Senator Koffa

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Andrew, Senator Examen, Senator Giangiordano,  
Senator LaFleur, Senator Lazicki, Senator Martinez, and Senator O'Toole

**Whereas,**

On *policies.cua.edu*, under the Sexual Offences Policy (students), the University defines consent as:

“Consent is informed, freely given, mutually understandable words or actions that indicate a willingness to participate in sexual activity. Effective consent may never be obtained when there is a threat of force or violence, or any other form of coercion or intimidation. A current or previous dating or sexual relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent, and consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity. Consent cannot be obtained from a minor, someone who is mentally disabled, or someone who is unable to understand or who cannot communicate a lack of consent. This includes someone who is incapacitated due to drugs, alcohol, or some other condition. Silence or lack of active resistance does not imply consent. Voluntary intoxication is not an excuse for failure to obtain consent.”

**Whereas,**

Verbal consent provides the clearest understanding and protection for both parties.

**Whereas,**

Action is not a reliable indicator that a person is consenting to sexual activity.

**Be it enacted that,**

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in their official capacity as representatives of the student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby request the following edits to the above policy on consent:

1. Remove the words “or actions” from the first sentence in the consent policy to make a solely verbal yes policy.
2. After the sentence “A current or previous dating or sexual relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent, and consent to one form of sexual activity does not imply consent to other forms of sexual activity.” insert “Consent can be revoked at any time by either party at will for any reason.”

Agreed to by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas to \_\_\_\_\_ nays on this date: \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining and \_\_\_\_\_ not present.

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Kristina Pinault

*President of the Student Government Association*

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Lauren Werling

*Vice President of the Student Government Association*